DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

[redacted]

~~SECRET/NOFORN/LIMDIS~~

(Classification and Control Markings)

This report contains unprocessed information. Plans and/or policies should not be evolved or modified solely on the basis of this report.

1. COUNTRY: AR

2. SUBJECT: Army COIN Operation in Tucuman (U)

3. ISC NUMBER: N/A

4. DATE OF INFORMATION: 1975 Aug 29 - Sep 3

5. PLACE AND DATE OF ACQ: (b)(3):10 USC 424 1975 Sep 3 Buenos Aires

6. EVALUATION: SOURCE [redacted] INFORMATION [redacted]

7. SOURCE: A. Press (b)(3):10 USC 424

8. REPORT NUMBER: (b)(3):10 USC 424

9. DATE OF REPORT: 1975 Sep 10

10. NO. OF PAGES: 3

11. REFERENCES: (b)(3):10 USC 424

12. ORIGINATOR: (b)(3):10 USC 424

13. PREPARED BY: (b)(3):10 USC 424

14. APPROVING AUTHORITY: (b)(3):10 USC 424

15. SUMMARY:

(~~S/NOFORN/LIMDIS~~) Government forces have scored some recent successes in the Tucuman (2649S-6513W) COIN Operation. There are widely varying estimates of number of guerrillas killed, some of whom may have died following interrogation. Army remains frustrated in its attempt to down guerrilla helicopter operating in the zone and recent guerrilla activities may spark joint military anti-subversive campaign.

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Date: Oct 17, 2018

~~NOFORN to avoid compromise of sources [redacted] in unique position.~~

1. (~~S/NOFORN~~) Army and police forces initiated a massive manhunt in Tucuman following the Montoneros' successful attack on the airfield there. On 28 Aug 75 the guerrillas bombed the runway at the Tucuman airport during the take-off of an Air Force C-130H cargo plane filled with National Gendarmerie border guards. Five troops lost their lives in the attack. According to a reliable source, 9 terrorists who were responsible for the incident have been tracked down, captured and "eliminated". Meanwhile the press reports that 10 guerrillas have been killed in separate actions following clashes which began on 28 August between insurgents and government forces.

16. DISTRIBUTION BY ORIGINATOR:

Coordinated in Embo:
AMB:RCHILL
DCM:JJMONTLLOR
POL
POL/R

17. DOWNGRADING DATA:

[redacted] (b)(3):10 USC 424

18. ATTACHMENT DATA:

None

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DD FORM 1 SEP 62 1396

REPLACES DA FORM 1048, 1 AUG 60, OPNAV FORM 3820 (Rev 10-61), AF FORM 112, JUL 61, WHICH MAY BE USED UNTIL 1 JAN 65.

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2. (S/NFD/LIMDIS) One newspaper claims that 800 guerrillas have been killed, wounded or captured since the Army moved into Tucuman last February. This figure reportedly surprised many observers since General Vilas had announced in late May that 350 guerrillas fell into this category. One source

Sec. 3.3(b) (1)

3. (S/NFD/LIMDIS) Source who has been actively involved in the Army's Tucuman operation reports that the Army has no idea of the number of guerrillas operating in the A.O. He stated that captured documents indicate that the subversives from all over Argentina are called upon to serve in Tucuman and that a rotation system is being employed. The guerrillas are well-equipped, but ammunition is not issued until just before an operation. According to the source, the terrorists fear infiltration. Recently, when four truck loads of subversives were returning from a local village (they were there to hold a parade and make a recruiting film) they unexpectedly ran upon several soldiers working on a school. The troops opened fire, killed four and wounded others. Although the guerrillas were armed, the only ammunition available was in the lead vehicle, which returned fire.

4. (S/NFD/LIMDIS) A source revealed that prisoners taken into custody following contact are segregrated into three groups: (1) confirmed guerrillas (2) collaborators (3) suspects. Confirmed guerrillas are interrogated and then killed (this confirms reported practices in IR's (b)(3):10 USC 424 (b)(3):10 USC 42). Collaborators are turned over to authorities for prosecution and suspects are reportedly released. Other individuals (who may have been identified as terrorists by Intelligence) are seized at night by soldiers in civilian dress. They are killed or "just disappear". When queries are made concerning their where-abouts, the Army claims ignorance.

(b)(3):10 USC 424

5. (S/NFD) The "phantom" guerrilla helicopter continues its sporatic flights throughout the A.O. Apparently there is only one HELO (previously two were reported - Note IR operating in the province. One Army Officer reports that it is painted black, delivers supplies and makes night leaflet drops. The helicopter crew was evidently obtaining gasoline from the Salta (24478-6525W) Airport. The Army reports that they captured a terrorist who was working at the airfield, stealing gasoline, doctoring reports and providing fuel to the terrorists. The helicopter problem is a real thorn in the Army's side. Three Air Force fighter aircraft were stationed in Tucuman (26498-6513W) to destroy it but were unsuccessful. One of the leading Army Air Defense Officers was recently in Cordoba coordinating some sort of maneuver there and is expected to return in two weeks.

6. (S/NFD) The recent Army shuffle of commanders has not weakened the leadership in III Corps [redacted] The new Corps

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Commander, BG Menendez, is a hard liner like the former commander, BG Delia Larocca. The V Infantry Brigade Commander was not changed. This organization has been responsible for the majority of the COIN Operations in Tucuman. Its CO, General Vilas is regarded as a good commander and is respected by his subordinates.

CMT 1. (~~S/NFD/LIMDIS~~): The Army as well as other security forces appear to have stepped up their anti-guerrilla operations. It is believed that they have had reasonable success and have caused considerable disruption within the guerrilla infrastructure. The figure of 500 guerrilla casualties is probably an exaggeration. There is, however, little doubt now that the terrorists' fate is sealed once captured.

CMT 2. (~~S/NFD/LIMDIS~~): The recent surge in security force activity in Tucuman could be a response to three bizarre successes: (1) the murder of Army Cpt Keller on 24 Aug 75 (Note IR (b)(3):10 USC 424), (2) the bombing of the Navy frigate "Santisima Trinidad" (Note IR (b)(3):10 USC 424), and (3) the destruction of the Air Force C-130H (Note IR (b)(3):10 USC 424). These events could have back-fired on the terrorists. The latter two incidents were apparently designed to force the Military to premptively move against the Peron Regime during the latest crisis. ~~On the contrary~~, they stirred up a hornet's nest. The Navy saw its first nationally constructed man-of-war hit by a bomb at her berth in Rio Santiago (3451S-5754W). Concurrently, the Air Force was bloodied by the guerrillas for the first time. The Air Force takes great pride in its C-130H fleet and the terrorists left one burning and destroyed at the end of the Tucuman runway.

CMT 3. (~~S/NFD/LIMDIS~~): The new Army hierarchy has made it clear that they want no envolvement in politics. According to one local editorial, they are ready and willing to "take on a mission that is appropriately theirs". The Navy and Air Force apparently share the Army's conviction. The upsurge in terrorist activities, coupled with damaged Air Force and Navy prides, could crystalize joint Armed Forces operations against the insurgents. The generals have been unsuccessful at this game in the past, but now conditions are ripe for joint operations. The guerrillas may be in store for some hard times in the months ahead.

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ROUTING AND TRANSMITTAL SLIP

1 TO CPT Deeny DS-4C	INITIALS DATE	ACTION CIRCULATE COORDINATION
2	INITIALS DATE	FILE INFORMATION
3	INITIALS DATE	NOTE AND RETURN PER CONVERSATION
4	INITIALS DATE	SEE ME SIGNATURE

REMARKS

Ref: IR (b)(3):10 USC 424

In accordance with our previous conversations and correspondence, I believe that the following limited distribution should be made of the reference IR. I would hope that some type of caveat could be put with this IR when issued so that it will not be further disseminated.

A115	B631	C620	D007	M005	P090
B138	B639	C765	E226	P050	
B502	B737	C766	E323	P085	

Do NOT use this form as a RECORD of approvals, concurrences, disapprovals, clearances, and similar actions

FROM	DATE
(b)(3):10 USC 424	10 Oct 75
	PHONE (b)(3):10 USC 424

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